

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Select Committee on Children  
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**H.B. 5218: An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Urban and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address HB 5218.

I urge you to pass this important legislation. In the 1970's Tris flame retardants were found to be carcinogenic and highly absorptive so they were voluntarily removed from children's clothing at that time. Since then chlorinated-Tris has found its way back into our children's products although the toxicity and danger to the health of children has remained the same. Some products found to have chlorinated-Tris include nursing pillows, infant changing pads and even car seats. The chemical is placed in the foam of these, and other products, but does not bind to the foam so it off-gases into the air and falls as dust to the ground exposing our infants and children. I found this information in a recent study called *Hidden Hazards in the Nursery* by Erica Schreder from the Washington Toxics Coalition.

I am a nurse, mother of a 2 year old daughter, and I am pregnant with my second child. I believe that it is unacceptable to continue to sell and produce products for children that contain Tris flame retardants, as it is a known carcinogen; especially since there are safer alternatives. I am also aware that the presence of these toxic carcinogens offers no real fire safety benefit. Instead, they delay the foam underneath the fabric from igniting for about 7 seconds. Meanwhile, the fabric has gone up in flames and the chemicals from the foam are actually more toxic than smoke. Fire injury and death are generally caused by smoke inhalation, not by actual burns. Therefore, there really is no reason to have these toxic chemicals in the products that my babies will lay on, sit in and play on for hours and hours each day.

I hope that Connecticut will continue to champion legislation to protect my daughter and my unborn child so that I will have one less toxic chemical to worry about. I want my children to have the hope of clean air to breathe and a safe environment to play in. I don't want to worry that my home is an unsafe and toxic place. Connecticut mothers and residents need your help to make our homes safe and healthy places to live in.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of Connecticut residents. I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Hacah Boros, RN